

FLEET STARTS TWIN-SEA TRIP

Sixteen Hard Hitting American Battleships Sail for Golden Gate.

PRESIDENT POINTED WAY.

Reviewed Magnificent Four-Mile Line on Cruiser Yacht Mayflower—Formal Farewell to Admiral Evans and His Captains—Sends Message to Enlisted Men—Program without a Hitch—Thousands Wave Farewells from Shore and Follow Fleet with Last Good Byes by Wireless.

Old Point Comfort, Va., Dec. 18.—Sixteen hard hitting, steel-plated American battleships, gun bristling and busy of gun, but sparkling white in their immaculate dressings of peace, sailed away today under the dazzling sun of a cloudless winter sky on their twin-sea expedition of 1,000 miles along foreign shores and changing climates to the west coast of the United States. President Roosevelt on the bridge of his cruiser yacht, the Mayflower, personally led the magnificent four-mile line of fighting vessels during the first stage of the voyage. From the anchorage ground in Hampton Roads to the horse shoe bend of Chesapeake bay his eagle-crowned flag of blue pointed the way to the fleet's new home at the Golden Gate. Then, when the wide reaches of the sea were visible through the wide opening of Virginia, he turned aside and, coming to anchor, reviewed the passing pageant.

The blue of the sky, the stretch of blue sea miles, the glimmering of spotless hulls, the curl of funneered bow waves, the cheering of sailors aloft and friends ashore, the breeze blown strains of "Auld Lang Syne" floating across the waters, the flare of trumpets, the huff of drums, the dash of signals and the boom of saluting cannon marked the departure of the fleet, presenting to the people who watched a spectacle they will never forget and to the world at large the reality of the strongest, swiftest, most homogeneous fleet thoroughly equipped, most modern, and most self-reliant assembly of free class battleships ever gathered in one command.

SHIPS NEVER IN BATTLE.

There was not a ship in the line old enough to have smelled powder or taken the shot of Manila or Santiago, stories written scarcely ten years ago in the history of nations. All were modern of design and armament examples of the aggressive sea going navy which the President has declared to be so essential to the peace of the country.

Attaches of foreign legations and embassies at Washington and many correspondents who have seen war service on foreign journals freely declared that today's naval display was the most impressive they had ever seen. The facility with which the big vessels were handled, the manner in which they were maneuvered into single column formation and the perfect alignment which was maintained to the southwest turn from the cape called out the warmest admiration.

The President stood waiting and bringing his right hand to saluting position, paid his formal respects and gave his personal assurance that the ships of his command were ready for their trip to the other side of the hemisphere. President Roosevelt acknowledged the salute with lifted hat and accepted the formal words of greeting as stiffly as they were uttered. Then with the brief ceremony ended, he grasped Admiral Evans's hand and gave it the heartiest of shakes. The two conversed together informally for a moment or two until other arriving flag and commanding officers set the reception in full swing.

When Admiral Evans was about to take his leave and get the fleet under way, the President followed him to the gangway and then called him aside for nearly five minutes of earnest consultation. The President spoke with his usual emphasis, and the admiral listened intently with a constant affirmative nod of his head.

MARTIAL TOUCH ON MAYFLOWER.

During the reception the President was photographed with the officers grouped about him. A marine guard and band were stationed on the Mayflower's decks and the ceremonies of receiving and sending away the visiting officers gave a martial touch of color to the occasion.

Rear Admiral Barry, commanding the Norfolk navy yard, journeyed to Hampton roads, on the torpedo boat Stringham to pay his respects to the President, and his dark hulled, rakish looking craft passing in among the white-capped battleships added something of the sinister side to the purpose of a navy's being. Black of hull and funnel with no touch of color anywhere in the relief, the Stringham glided about like some creepy reptile. There was another torpedo craft in the picture, the Tingey, which acted as conveyer to the Mayflower. But the Tingey was far more pleasing in her sea green coloring and bright yellow band about the forward stack. She remained by the side of the Mayflower throughout the ceremonies.

AT WORK BEFORE SUN RISE.

The waiting fleet prepared early to welcome the President and later bid him adieu. Long before the first ray shadows of the breaking sun slanted through the open gateway of the capes, the red and white arched lanterns on mastsheads were flashing signals from divisional flagships. Sailorsmen by the hundreds were busy in polishing decks and bright works for the coming sun to bring out in sparkling relief against the buff color of the superstructure. The ever busy little steam boats were making their last trip from shore with impatient whistles screaming a warning to tardy mail or cables laden with last messages of good bye to the departing fleet when the sun broke above the eastern horizon.

It was not long after the anchor lights had disappeared that the slim white hull of the Mayflower could be made out of the distance. Then the final preparations were rushed with a will. Orders had been given to dress ship at eight o'clock and the last bell of the morning watch had not yet struck when the dressing line, a buffer with vertical signal flags, were lifted to the truck above the lighting tops. The gray dressings appeared as if by magic on every ship of the fleet and remained aloft until the President had taken his place at the head of the line and the start for the Pacific cruise was an actuality. Then they came tumbling to the deck and the ships had once more assumed the simple garb of cruising trim.

THOUSANDS VIEWED DEPARTURE.

The Old Point shores and the ramparts of mingled admiration for the fleet were lined with thousands of persons as the fleet lifted anchor and set sail. Other thousands were gathered aboard excursion craft of all descriptions. The government pier projecting far out into the roads at Old Point was a living mass of humanity. In the crowd were gathered wives, sisters and sweethearts of officers and enlisted men, all feeling the common impulse of historic old Fortress Monroe vast marine picture unfolded before them and the heart throbs of a long parting with relatives and friends. It was peculiarly fitting, therefore, that when the flagship Connecticut swept by the pier the band assembled on the quarterdeck should play "The Girl I Left Behind Me" and then more plaintively came the strains of "Auld Lang Syne," followed in turn by the "Star Spangled Banner."

FOUR JACKIES LEFT BEHIND.

There was not a hitch in any of the details of the well planned program, but there were a number of amusing incidents, not the least of which were the antics of four sailors who had over-stayed their leave on shore and were frantically calling from the Old Point pier for a boat to pick them up. At last one of the quartette conceived the idea of waving their plight to the commanding officer. Seizing his own cap and another from his companions he mounted to a pile head and for nearly 10 minutes waved arms and caps according to the signal code. But it was too late to stop for strangers and the disappointed sailors, their dirty boxes and clothes bags safe about the parting ships, were left behind. When the President and the officers were posing for their pictures, Admiral Evans called forth laughter by exclaiming to the group of photographers: "Shoot fast, you fellows, you need some training at a navy gun."

To-night the sixteen ships of the massive fleet continuing in single order and receiving their light by wireless telegraph as they left the roadstead and had turned down the southern coast. The President, after the review at the horse shoe bend, returned to Washington, the Mayflower weighing anchor for the trip up the Potomac shortly after noon. The fleet got under way just after ten o'clock and in less than two hours later had cleared the capes and had begun in earnest the most notable practice cruise in naval history.

LAST GOOD BYES BY WIRELESS.

Hundreds of good bye telegrams were flashed to the ships by wireless telegraph as they left the roadstead and had turned down the southern coast. The President, after the review at the horse shoe bend, returned to Washington, the Mayflower weighing anchor for the trip up the Potomac shortly after noon. The fleet got under way just after ten o'clock and in less than two hours later had cleared the capes and had begun in earnest the most notable practice cruise in naval history.

FIRST SQUADRON.

Connecticut (flagship of commander-in-chief), 16,000 tons; Capt. Hugo Osterhaus, commanding. Lead, Connecticut. Robert B. Higgins, fleet engineer, Louisville, 10,000 tons; Capt. Richard



"Remember, it is not what you spend but what you get for what you spend" at the :: Burlington Furniture Company's ::

Over-Production Sale!!

WE'VE GOT UM!

What? Why Thousands of Common Sense Things for Christmas Giving!

MORRIS CHAIRS,	\$ 4.95 TO \$17.50
PARLOR DESKS,	3.95 TO 25.00
PARLOR CABINETS,	5.95 TO 25.00
MUSIC CABINETS,	5.95 TO 12.50
ROCKING CHAIRS,	1.95 TO 22.95
FANCY MIRRORS,	2.95 TO 12.95
CHIFFONIERES,	4.95 TO 25.00
DRESSERS,	7.95 TO 50.00
BOOK CASES,	4.95 TO 25.00
DRESSING TABLES,	6.50 TO 15.00
CHINA CLOSETS,	10.00 TO 25.00
SEWING MACHINES,	12.95 TO 65.00
PHONOGRAPHS,	10.00 TO 100.00
BRASS BEDS,	17.95 TO 50.00
CELLARETTES,	7.95 TO 12.50

DON'T BOTHER ABOUT THE MONEY
YOUR CREDIT IS GOOD

BURLINGTON FURNITURE CO

"OUT OF THE HIGH RENT DISTRICT"

STORE OPEN EVERY EVENING UNTIL XMAS

MAPLE SUGAR SWINDLER GUILTY

Stephen Whitton, Jr., Sentenced to Jail for Three Months and Fined \$500.

DEFAUDED VT. FARMERS

Promised Fancy Prices in Negotiations through the Mills—Producers Allowed to Have Received Nothing—Jury Took 10 Minutes to Convict Utica Man.

Utica, N. Y., Dec. 16.—Stephen Whitton, Jr., of this city was convicted and sentenced in the United States court here today to pay \$500 fine and spend three months in jail for carrying on swindling operations through the mails.

BISHOP'S LETTER SHEDS LIGHT ON CONTROVERSY.

Italian Church Plans Approved As Regards Lot and Foundation—Parish Allowed to Hold Fair.

Rutland, Dec. 16.—The controversy over the building of the proposed \$5,000 Italian church here, which arose a week ago when the three English speaking Catholic priests advised their congregations from the pulpits not to patronize the fair which the Rev. Francis Crociata, the Italian pastor, is to give, on the grounds that both fair and church are irregular, has been settled by a letter from Bishop J. S. Michaels to the News here. The bishop declares that no plans for the church have been submitted to him so that he cannot have approved them in contradiction to statements made by the other pastors. He further says that it is contrary to all custom for the rector of any parish to solicit funds outside his own parish for parish work, but the people of any parish may offer help they are inclined to give to any parish that they please.

The bishop's letter throws light on a subject which has caused more controversy than anything else which has ever arisen

in the Catholic churches here. The bishop concludes as follows:

PERMISSION TO BE GIVEN.

"Permission to erect new buildings in a parish is obtained from and plans for the same are approved by, the bishop in every case, and both must be in writing. The bishop cannot reasonably be supposed capable of meeting the projected building expenses. The Rev. Francis Crociata obtained permission to secure a lot and to begin the foundation for a church everything to be done and paid for by his people, with any help that others might wish to give them. The foundation being finished, nothing more was to be done until he received our approbation or sanction."

The reverend rector of the Italian parish assured us that he could obtain from each member of his congregation a monthly subscription, and that this subscription, together with the work his own people could give, would be sufficient to cover the cost of erecting the new church. In no case does the diocese assume any responsibility, without the express sanction and approbation of the bishop in writing. We have given Father Crociata permission to hold a fair for the benefit of the proposed new church. This fair is to take place in February, 1908, and whoever wishes to patronize it may do so."

CARNEGIE MEDAL FOR A BRAVE VERMONT.

Rutland, Dec. 16.—Michael Dwyer of this city has received word that he is to receive a gold medal from the Carnegie hero fund because of bravery exhibited in saving the life of a young girl at Troy, N. Y., who fell into the Hudson river in February, 1908. The committee had a hard time in finding Dwyer's address, but finally learned of it by corresponding with Mayor R. L. Richmond.

COSTS \$19 IN RUTLAND TO PUNCH POLICEMAN.

Rutland, Dec. 16.—It only costs \$19 in this city for the privilege of punching in the eye an officer in the performance of his duties according to a decision given in Rutland city court today by Judge Walter K. Farnsworth.

About two weeks ago Special Policeman L. H. Rogers attempted to remove from a passenger coach at the depot some large placards put there by some young people who were "swearing off" a wedding party. James Porter, a brother of the bride, struck Rogers in the face with his fist because of the officer's interference. Porter was arrested at the time but his case was continued. Today he was allowed to plead guilty to a charge of simple assault and was fined \$10 and costs of \$9.11.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTIONS.

Delegates to Chicago May Be Named at Burlington in April.

Middlebury, Dec. 16.—Col. Thad M. Chapman, chairman of the republican State committee, has returned from Burlington, where he has been in conference with other members of the committee relative to calling a meeting to decide upon the time and place for holding a State convention to elect dele-

gates to the national republican convention to be held at Chicago, June 12. The convention will be held some time in April probably at Burlington. Another State convention to nominate candidates for State officers will be held in June.

COMRADE SHOTS A HUNTER

Four Horses Required to Haul Ambulance through Snow Storm.

Brattleboro, Dec. 15.—Frank W. Barrett of Chesterfield, Center, N. H., was brought here last night suffering from a gunshot wound which is so serious as to make the result uncertain. He and three other men were hunting deer yesterday forenoon, and upon sighting a buck Barrett shot twice, but did not bring the animal down. Chelsea Criss, one of the other hunters, then took a quick aim and shot the charge striking Barrett in the right elbow, splintering the bone.

GREAT YEAR FOR GAME.

A Total of 2,500 Deer, 70 Moose and 50 Bears Killed in Maine.

Portland, Me., Dec. 15.—The hunting season in Maine ended at midnight last night and found a large number of Portland men still in the woods. It has been a successful year for the hunters of the Maine. According to the figures of the Maine Central railroad, about 2,500 deer, 70 moose and 50 bears have been shipped over the road, and these figures do not include the game which went over the Bangor & Aroostook railroad, or other lines. In October the Maine Central railroad handled 250 deer, 25 moose and 25 bears; in November 1,500 deer, 25 moose and 17 bears, and the balance were handled in the 15 days in December.

REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN.

C. Bascom Sharp Elected in Virginia to Succeed His Father.

Roadsboro, Va., Dec. 15.—In a special election held today in the ninth Virginia district to elect a successor to the late Congressman Campbell Sharp, the latter's son, C. Bascom Sharp, republican nominee, has been elected over David F. Bailey, independent republican by a majority now estimated at 1,500. The democrats had no candidate.

BIG STRIKE IN CHILE.

Santiago, Chile, Dec. 17.—The workmen in the Tarapaca Nitrate fields have gone on strike. The movement is a serious one, no less than 8,000 men having quit work, and business is paralyzed. The situation at Iquique is critical. Warships and troops have been sent to the troubled districts. Up to the present time there has been no violence.

Glowing Heat From Every Ounce of Fuel!

When the mercury drops out of sight, and you just can't keep the house warm, you'll find it wonderfully convenient to use a

PERFECTION Oil Heater

(Equipped with Smokeless Device)

It's very light—carry it about—heat any cold room. Turn the wick high or low—no danger—no smoke—no smell. Easily cared for and gives nine hours of cozy comfort at one filling of brass font. Finished in nickel and japan. Every heater warranted.

The Rayo Lamp

—read or sew by it—won't tire your eyes. Latest improved central draft burner. Made of brass, nickel plated. If your dealer cannot supply the Rayo Lamp or Perfection Oil Heater, write our nearest agency for a descriptive circular.

STANDARD OIL CO. OF NEW YORK
(Incorporated)